



Idaho State Department of Agriculture

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BRAD LITTLE, GOVERNOR

CHANEL TEWALT, DIRECTOR

Dear Resident(s) living in the 2023 Caldwell Japanese Beetle Treatment Area,

This letter is to notify you that any areas containing grass in the yard of your residence are scheduled to receive treatment for Japanese beetle control this coming spring and summer. We are asking for your consent to allow a FREE treatment of turf on your property. Please follow the instructions on the enclosed consent form, or by using the [electronic consent form](#) which can be accessed on ISDA's website.

Japanese beetles (JB) are highly invasive insects from the eastern U.S. that were unexpectedly found in large numbers in your neighborhood during summer of 2022. In addition to severely damaging turf during their grub stage while feeding on grass roots, adult JB attack and can kill over 300 kinds of ornamental and crop plants, while consuming leaves, fruit and flowers. They are especially attracted to roses, berry bushes, grapes, and fruit trees. If JB establish in the Caldwell area, the entire state would become quarantined for the pest. This could result in numerous negative implications for Idaho's hop, apple, and wine industries, for homeowners and gardeners, and eventually for Idaho's agricultural and horticultural producers.

The Idaho State Department of Agriculture (ISDA) has determined that, to eliminate JB before it becomes permanently established (Plant Pest Act of 2002), eradication efforts are necessary in your neighborhood. To destroy the insect in this early stage of infestation, all lawns within the prescribed treatment block will receive two granular pesticide applications targeting JB grubs, which live within the soil. ISDA is in the process of contracting a professional pest control service to conduct this AT NO COST TO YOU. The first treatment will be scheduled for mid to late May and the second in mid-July. Ground application of granular insecticide in areas of your yard containing turf is the only action planned. Liquid pesticide will not be sprayed. Flower and vegetable gardens, bushes, and trees will not be treated – only grass. All pesticides will be applied in strict accordance with label directions and all recommended safety precautions will be stringently followed.

In addition to this letter, you can expect to receive a notification about treatment approximately one week before each insecticide application. At that time, you will be informed of the exact date treatment has been scheduled for your property and of any preparations you should make. The action plan ISDA has chosen to eradicate JB in Caldwell is based on the program successfully carried out against Idaho's first JB infestation in Boise. Beetles were first discovered in 2012, and due to the aggressive treatment protocol were eliminated by 2019. This project was the largest successful eradication of JB documented in the United States.

To see the JB infestation locations and for detailed information on pesticide use, JB biology and more, please visit ISDA's Japanese Beetle Project page agri.idaho.gov/main/plants/jb or contact ISDA at (208) 332-8620 or by e-mail at JB@isda.idaho.gov. Please look at the enclosed consent form and pick the most convenient way to send it in. Please do this as soon as possible, preferably before April 7, 2023.

Thank you,

Idaho State Department of Agriculture Plant Industries Staff